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NEWSLETTER 2010/1

2019-1-TR01-KA204-074155 Speak
English- MOOC- English Language
MOOC to Improve Speaking Skills



In the global world where communication is beyond physical spaces, language competences, particularly, foreign language competence, are highly important in almost all areas of life. In various official documents, it is indicated that English is becoming de facto lingua franca and it is the most taught foreign language, both in Europe and globally. However, according to the EACEA/Eurydice's latest Key Data on Teaching Languages at School in Europe the outcome of foreign language learning in Europe is poor and students are not able to use very simple language, even with support. At the same time, almost half of Europeans report that they are unable to **hold a conversation** in any language other than their mother tongue. Of all four language skills, which are reading, writing, listening and speaking, speaking is the most difficult to develop.

On the other hand, there are megatrends, external factors, transforming the world around us. Among these trends are the aging population, labour market shifts, skills mismatch and economic shifts all around the world. These megatrends have implications on education as well and necessitate development of the skills of existing employees. Therefore, relevant, affordable and flexible programs become popular for those group of people. Distance education has, thus, emerged as an extremely important option and they have been identified as "the most important trend in education" by the Horizon Report in 2013. (Horizon Shortlist Report, 2013). As for Shah (2017), around 20 million new learners signed up for their first MOOC in 2017, taking the total number of learners to 78 million.

Foreign language skills are in much demand and the need for related online courses is widespread. Within this perspective, Language MOOCs can be a decent alternative for adult learners. With these data at hand, **Speak English MOOCs** will offer adult learners from diverse geographical locations the opportunity to have an advantage to succeed in the ever-increasing competitive job market. **Speak English- MOOC- English Language MOOC to Improve Speaking Skills Project** is a Strategic Partnership Project in the field of Adult Education funded by the Erasmus+ Program of the European Union. The main objective of the project is to develop and offer a 6-week online content focused on improving speaking skills in English language.

The Intellectual Outputs to be provided in the project are:

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 1: Speak English-MOOC

INTELLECTUAL OUTPUT 2: Speak English- OER HUB

The project is coordinated by Bartın University and the partnership involves Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) from Spain; Best Institut Fur Berufsbezogene Weiterbildung and Personaltraining GMBH from Austria; Eskişehir Anadolu University from Turkey.

The kick-off meeting for the project was held on December, 17 2019 in Austria with the participation of all project partners where details on the design of the MOOC contents and the platform where the content will be hosted were discussed as well as the dissemination plan during the lifetime and after the completion of the project.

